



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/558,446	05/31/2007	Catherine A. L. Maris	L0009/US	4655

30522 7590 04/13/2010
KRATON POLYMERS U.S. LLC
16400 Park Row
HOUSTON, TX 77084

EXAMINER

MULLIS, JEFFREY C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1796

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-------------------	---------------

04/13/2010

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

kratonip@kraton.com

Art Unit: 1796

Applicants newly added limitation was not previously present in any claims and would therefore require further consideration and search. It is not clear why those skilled in the art would go through the trouble of producing fibers if they melted during processing and in any case the melting point of aramide is extraordinarily high (see De Angelis, US 2001/0030608 at paragraph 3) and it does not even appear the components of the prior art such as SBC could even survive a process in which aramide melted such as would be needed to eliminate aramides fiber form and in any case nowhere does Nakashima disclose any melt processing temperatures as high as those which would melt aramide. Those skilled in the art when reading Nakashimas' disclosure would therefore not reasonably conclude that addition of aramide fibers as disclosed by the reference would not result in an aramide fiber containing composition. A composition molded in the presence of fibers is reasonably interested as having overmolded fibers even if bonding of the resin to the fibers is not perfect. Furthermore with regard to those claims not limited to aramide, patentees specifically disclose the use of a coupling agent on the surface of patentees (polar) inorganic fire retardant and it is unreasonable to assume anything but very good bonding between the inorganic fire retardant surface and the resin of patentees. All elements of applicants invention are present in the references except that no example in which all of applicants limitations are present in combination such as would be necessary for anticipation. It is not the position of the examiner that unexpected results are needed absent a prima facie case of obviousness. However given the applicants various elements are disclosed to be combinable by the references, a proper prima facie case of obviousness may be made over the

Art Unit: 1796

references. A reference must be viewed in its entirety and claim 5 of Nakashima clearly indicates that aramide fibers may be added to Nakashimas' composition. Admittedly Shibata uses roughly double the load of applicants for measuring MFR and therefore the MFR of Shibatas materials would be somewhat lower than the 100 g/10 min reported by Shibata when measured under applicants conditions but on the other hand the upper level of MFR of 100 reported by Shibata is much higher than the 20 g/10 min of the instant claims.

JCM

4-7-10

/Jeffrey C. Mullis/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1796